

With Edged Tools

By HENRY SETON MERRIMAN
Author of "The Sowers," "Reden's Corner," "From
One Generation to Another," Etc.

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"By Jove!" ejaculated Jack Meredith. "I never thought of that. He got it up at the plateau. He left it behind him. They have got it up there now."

"Not now?"

"What do you mean, Oscar?"

"Merely that all those fellows up there are dead. There is \$90,000 worth of simlacine packed ready for carrying to the coast standing in a pile on the plateau, and there are thirty-four dead men keeping watch over it."

"Is it as infectious as that?"

"When it first shows itself infectious is not the word: it is nothing but a plague. Not one of those fellows can have escaped."

"Jack Meredith sat forward and rubbed his two hands pensively over his knees."

"So," he said, "only you and I and Joseph know where the simlacine plateau is."

"That is so," answered Oscar.

"And Joseph won't go back?"

"Not if you were to give him that \$90,000 worth of stuff."

"And you will not go back?"

"Not for \$900,000. There is a curse on that place."

"I believe there is," said Meredith.

"And such was the end of the great simlacine scheme—the wonder of a few seasons. Some day, when the great Sahara is turned into an island sea, when steamers shall ply where sand now flies before the desert wind, the plateau may be found again. Some day, when Africa is cut from east to west by a railway line, some adventurous soul will scale the height of one of many mountains, one that seems no different from the rest and yet is held in awe by the phantom haunted dens of the gloomy forest, and there he will find a pyramid of wooden cases surrounded by bleached and scattered bones where vultures have fed."

"In the meantime the precious drug will grow scarcer day by day, and the human race will be poorer by the loss of one of those half-matured discoveries which have more than once in the world's history been on the point of raising the annual called man to a higher, stronger, finer development of brain and muscle than we can conceive of under existing circumstances. Who can tell? Perhaps the strange, solitary bush may be found growing elsewhere—in some other continent across the ocean. The ways of nature are past comprehension, and no man can say who sows the seed that crops up in strange places. The wind blows where it listeth, and none can tell what germs it bears. It seems hardly credible that the plateau, no bigger than a cricket field, far away in the waste land of central Africa, can be the only spot on this planet where the magic leaf grows in sufficient profusion to supply suffering humanity with an alleviating drug, unrivaled—a strength giving herb unapproached in power. But as yet no other simlacine has been found, and the plateau is lost."

"And the end of it was two men who had gone to look for it two years before—youth and hearty—returning from the search successful beyond their highest hopes, with a shadow in their eyes and gray upon their heads."

"They sat for nearly two hours in that room in the quiet house in Russell square, where the cabs do not pass, and their conversation was of money. They sat until they had closed the simlacine account, never to be reopened. They discussed the question of renouncement and after due consideration concluded that the gain was rightly theirs, seeing that the risk had all been theirs. Slaves and slave owner had both taken their case to a higher court, where the defendant has no worry and the plaintiff is at rest. They were beyond the reach of money—beyond the glitter of gold—far from the cry of anguish. A fortune was set aside for Marie Durnovo, to be held in trust for the children of the man who had found the simlacine plateau; another was apportioned to Joseph."

"Seventy-seven thousand one hundred and four pounds for you," said Jack Meredith at length, laying aside his pen; "seventy-seven thousand one hundred and four pounds for me. And," he added, after a little pause, "it was not worth it."

"It was not worth it?"

"Yes," said Jack Meredith. "I must go. I must be out of London to-morrow morning. I shall go abroad—America or somewhere."

"He rose as he spoke, and Oscar made no attempt to restrain him."

"They went out into the passage together. Oscar opened the door and followed his companion to the step."

"I suppose," said Meredith, "we shall meet some time, somewhere?"

"Yes."

"They shook hands."

"Jack Meredith went down the steps almost reluctantly. At the foot of the short flight he turned and looked up at the strong, peaceful form of his friend."

"What will you do?" he said.

"I shall go back to my big game," replied Guy Oscar. "I am best at that. But I shall not go to Africa."

"CHAPTER XXIV."

"I RATHER expect—Lady Cantourne," said Sir John to his servants when he returned home, "any time between now and 10 o'clock."

"The butler, having a vivid recollection of an occasion when Lady Cantourne was shown into a drawing

room where there were no flowers, made his preparations accordingly. The flowers were set out with that masculine ignorance of such matters which brings a smile—not wholly of mirth—to a woman's face. The little used drawing room was brought under the notice of the housekeeper for that woman's touch which makes a drawing room what it is. It was always ready, this room, though Sir John never sat in it. But for Lady Cantourne it was always more than ready."

Sir John went to the library and sat rather wearily down in the stiff backed chair before the fire. He began by taking up the evening newspaper, but failed to find his eyeglasses, which had twisted up in some aggravating manner with his necktie. So he laid aside the journal and gave way to the weakness of looking into the fire."

Once or twice his head dropped forward rather suddenly so that his clean shaven chin touched his tie pin, and this without a feeling of sleepiness warranting the relaxation of the spinal column. He sat up suddenly on each occasion and threw back his shoulders.

"Almost seems," he muttered once, "as if I were getting to be an old man."

After that he remembered nothing until the butler, coming in with the lamp, said that Lady Cantourne was in the drawing room. The man busied himself with the curtains, carefully avoiding a glance in his master's direction. No one had ever found Sir John asleep in a chair during the hours that other people watch, and this faithful old servant was not going to begin to do so now."

"Ah," said Sir John, surreptitiously consulting his collar and voluminous necktie, "thank you."

He rose and glanced at the clock. It was nearly 7. He had slept through the most miserable hour of Millicent Chyne's life."

At the head of the spacious staircase he paused in front of the mirror, half hidden behind exotics, and pressed down his wig behind either ear. Then he went into the drawing room."

Lady Cantourne was standing impatiently on the hearth rug, and scarcely responded to his bow."

"Has Jack been here?" she asked.

"No."

She stamped a foot, still neat despite its long journey over a road that had never been very smooth. Her manner was that of a commander in chief, competent but unfortunate in the midst of a great reverse."

"He has not been here this afternoon?"

"No," answered Sir John, closing the door behind him."

"And you have not heard anything from him?"

"Not a word. As you know, I am not fortunate enough to be fully in his confidence."

Lady Cantourne glanced round the room as if looking for some object

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SHORT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

Transacts Little Business Out of The Ordinary

Nineteenth Street Improvement ordered and City Will Defend For the Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING.

Just a half hour was required last night for the board of councilmen to transact business. There was little to do, and the meeting was the shortest regular meeting held this year. The Nineteenth street improvement ordinance passed and routine business occupied the council the remainder of the meeting.

Councilmen Duval and Herzog were absent.

The minutes of the last regular meetings were read and approved.

Mayor Yeiser stated that the work of building a culvert under Husbands street from Fourth street to Sixth street had been stopped by himself, because the city did not own the street. The matter of acquiring the right of way was referred.

The water company reported the installation of two fire plugs on Washington street between First and Third streets.

Mayor Yeiser filed a letter from officers on the gunboat "Paducah."

Solicitor James Campbell, Jr., stated that the Paducah Distilleries company had mandamus City Clerk Henry Bailey to issue a liquor license, and that while the city is not made a party to the suit, it is interested, and he wishes to know if the city will stand any expense incurred in the matter. The matter was tabled for the present.

The action of the board of aldermen in holding up a compromise of \$200 with Mrs. Jessie Weeks until she has settled for her city taxes was concurred in subject to the advice of City Solicitor James Campbell, Jr., who had been excused from the meeting because of illness.

The matter of bringing in an ordinance making the office of stock poorman permanent was favorably acted on.

Finance Committee Report.

The finance committee's report, showing a total of \$2,328.68 allowed for salaries and bills, was received and filed.

Nineteenth Street Ordinance.

The ordinance for grading and graveling Nineteenth street from Broadway to the old Mayfield road, was given second passage.

The motion to refer the matter of a culvert under Nineteenth street across Bradshaw creek, to the city engineer and board of public works, carried.

Councilman Katterjohn stated that the joint sewerage committee had decided to call Engineer J. W. Alford here to further consult him regarding the sewer district No. 3. No action was necessary.

Solicitor to Defend.

The city solicitor was instructed to defend Henry Bailey in the mandamus suit brought by the Paducah Distilleries company to compel the clerk to issue a liquor license.

Councilman John Williamson declared that the Paducah-Cairo Illinois Central trains are exceeding the speed limit in the city limits. Mayor Yeiser stated he would instruct Chief Collins to look after it.

Councilman Kolb suggested cleaning up the "lumber room" next to the clerk's vault. It was ordered cleaned out.

Councilman Hill moved that services of sanitary inspectors be discontinued December 1. The motion carried. Heretofore they have been "laid off" sooner. If the board of health desires one inspector, one will be allowed.

The attention of the board of public works was directed to the pavement at Second street and Kentucky avenue. The pavement is much higher than the street. This matter had been up several times with no results. Business men have refused to permit a railing installed. The matter was referred to the board of public works.

On motion the board adjourned.

SLIDES 3,000 FEET IN FLUME

Lumberman Has Thrilling Experience in Wild Plunge Into Sea.

Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 20.—After shooting 3,000 feet down a dry shingle flume at such terrific rate that the skin was burned from his body, then flying 25 feet from the end of the flume into the ocean, then swimming about 150 feet, although he never swam in his life before, next holding to rocks and finding himself too weak to clamber ashore and to be finally rescued by his wife from a position of extreme

YOUR FILTERS

On Their Action Depends Your Life.

Each day there is as much poison filtered from your blood as you could lay on your thumb nail. Your kidneys are the filters. The poison is uric acid.

When your filters—your kidneys—get out of order not only is your blood filled up with uric acid but these sharp, sand-like grains of uric acid go to cutting and scratching through the delicate tubes leading into your kidneys. That is kidney trouble.

Clogging the kidneys with uric acid results in Bright's Disease. The blood becomes poisoned and Diabetes or Heart Trouble, or any blood disease may make its appearance. Plainly the only cure is to clean the poison out of the filters—dissolve the uric acid out of the kidneys and blood.

LIFE PLANT

EXPELS URIC ACID.

First of all LIFE PLANT is a solvent of uric acid. It dissolves the uric acid out of the kidneys, drives it out of the blood and cleans up the whole system. Diabetes, Kidney Trouble, Bright's Disease and all other uric acid diseases are thus certainly cured by getting rid of the cause—uric acid.